

1.941

R8 Em 7

Enc. 33

Cop. 2

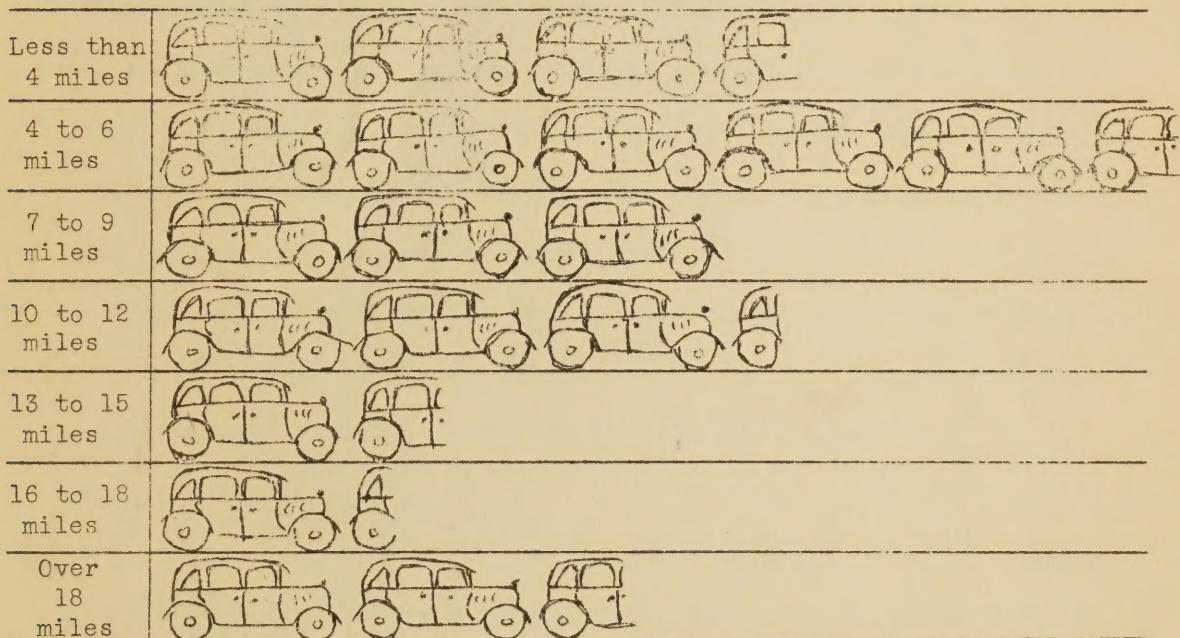
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
Farm Security Administration



Employment, Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Workers Living in
Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps in
California and Arizona
March 24 to April 20, 1940

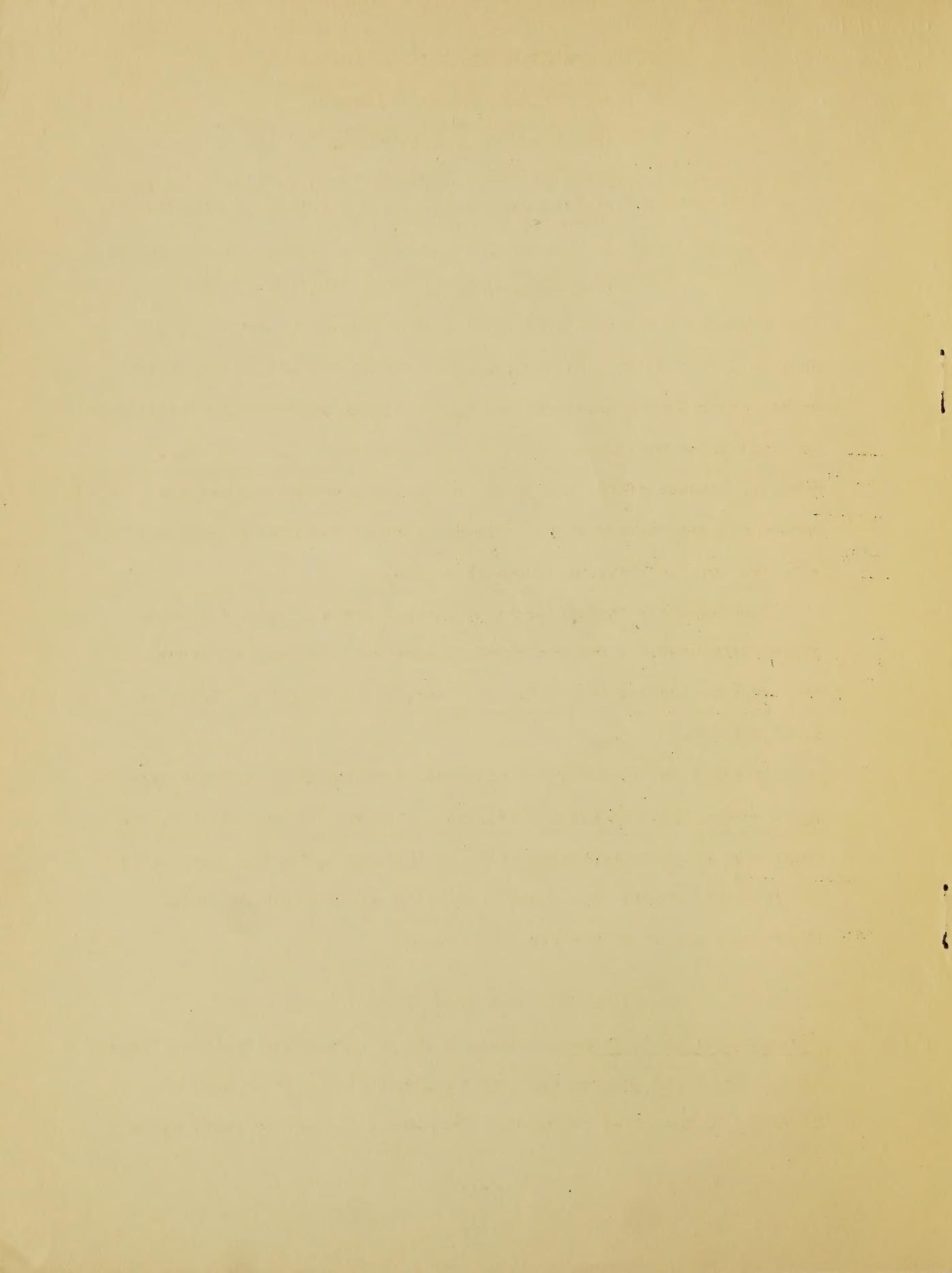
How far do FSA Camp workers travel to get jobs?
(Each car = 20 jobs)



Most jobs are located within 6 miles from camp but there are also many jobs which are more than 20 miles away.

(This is the third of a series of reports to be issued monthly on the employment situation of agricultural workers living in F. S. A. migratory labor camps. The data for these reports are supplied from a ten per cent sample of all families in camps--a new sample being selected every week. All members of each household who are working or seeking work are reported upon with regard to their employment activities during the week in which the family is included in the sample).

Berkeley, California. May 6, 1940.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
Farm Security Administration

Employment and Earnings of Farm Workers Residing in Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps in California and Arizona.

March 24 to April 20, 1940

SLOW IMPROVEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

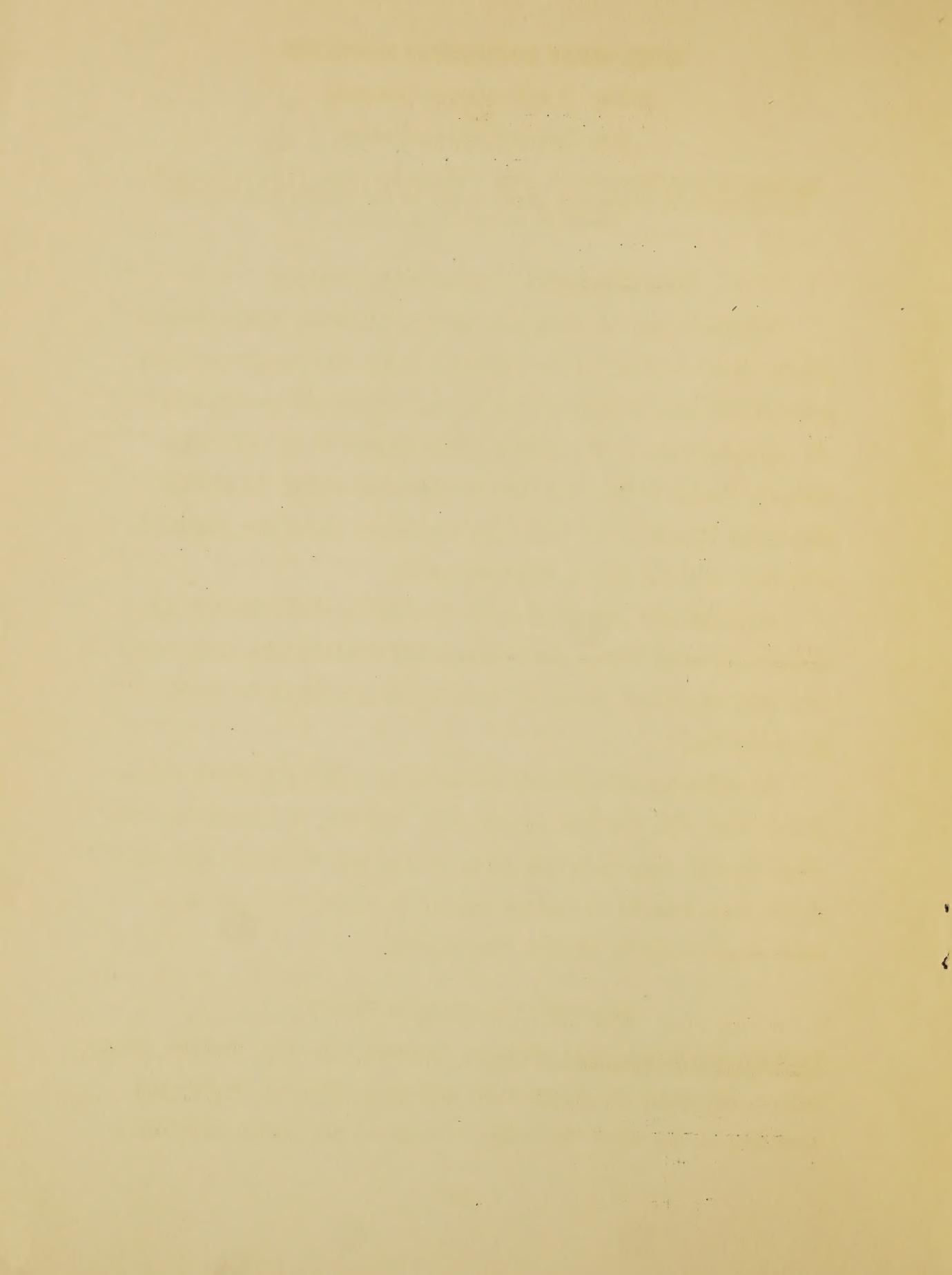
Employment for the first week of this four-week period dropped sharply from the level of the preceding week. The second and third weeks showed some improvement and by the fourth week (ending April 20) employment was at the highest level reached so far this year. However, because of the low level in the early weeks, the average employment situation for this four-week period was almost identical with that of the previous four-week period.

Approximately three-fourths of the workers remain wholly unemployed each week. Those who obtained work received only an average of 3 days employment per week. They earned an average of \$5.76, or \$1.83 per day.

In addition, some workers are engaged on public assistance projects - WPA, NYA, FSA work orders, etc. However, it appears that the camps have not been reporting fully on this type of work. Some camps report large numbers of workers engaged in these activities while other camps report no workers thus engaged.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS BY REGIONS

Northern California Camps (Windsor, Gridley, Yuba City, Winters, Thornton).- The chief job reported was spinach cutting (at Gridley and Thornton) in the first two weeks. Throughout the period there was a



good deal of general farm work, pruning and brush burning. Principal non-agricultural job was wood cutting. Levee patrol in the Yuba City camp was the best paying job. Several persons were reported working out FSA grants.

San Joaquin Valley Camps (Westley, Visalia, Shafter, Arvin, Corcoran). Employment in these camps was at an extremely low level, only one job being reported for the four weeks at Mobile Unit No. 2 at Corcoran and practically none being reported at Visalia. Again this region had the lowest level of employment of the four regions with consequent lowest family earnings. Virtually no public assistance was reported in this region. The employment obtained in the camps other than Visalia and Corcoran was largely agricultural, principally potato picking, pea picking and packaging, general farm work, irrigating and pruning.

Imperial and Coachella Valley Camps (Indio, Calipatria, Brawley, Holtville). The largest proportions of worker and family employment were in this region. At Holtville the principal jobs were tying carrots ($14\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ a crate), topping carrots, and haying, (\$2.50 per day). Tying and topping carrots furnished the chief employment at Brawley. Workers at Indio were picking grapefruit at \$1.25 a ton and hoeing and suckering corn.

Arizona Camps (Agua Fria and 11-Mile Corners).- Agua Fria reports a good deal of lettuce picking especially in the first half of the period. Cantaloupe cultivating was reported here during the last week. Employment at 11-Mile Corners was meager, with a few irrigating jobs reported. The predominating hourly wage rate for farm work in Arizona was 25 cents.

Table 1.

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT
 Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory
 Labor Camps in California and Arizona
 March 24 to April 20, 1940

	Week ending				Four week average
	March 30	April 6	April 13	April 20	
1. Percentage of workers receiving employment:					
(a) Employment other than public assistance	16.9	23.9	21.8	29.7	23.1
(b) Public work programs	4.5	2.9	6.8	3.0	4.0
2. Percentage of families with at least one worker employed:					
(a) Employment other than public assistance	23.3	32.8	27.8	40.9	31.1
(b) Public works programs	6.7	3.4	11.9	5.6	6.9
3. Average workers per family:					
(a) Employed on other than public assistance	.32	.48	.40	.56	.44
(b) Employed on public assistance	.08	.04	.12	.06	.08
(c) Unemployed	1.47	1.49	1.30	1.27	1.38
(d) Total Workers	1.87	2.01	1.82	1.88	1.90
4. Average days employment (other than on public assist.)					
(a) Employed workers	2.97	2.85	3.41	3.33	3.15
(b) All workers	.50	.68	.73	.99	.73
5. Employment index*					
	8.4	11.4	12.4	16.5	12.1
6. Average distance (in miles) from camp to job (public assistance projects excluded)					
(Camps included in above figures)	9.4	11.4	8.7	9.6	9.8
(Families included in above figures)	(15)	(16)	(16)	(16)	---
	(240)	(232)	(227)	(232)	(931)

* Man days employment received on other than public assistance projects + man days available for employment (allowing for a six-day week). If all workers were fully employed the index number would be 100.

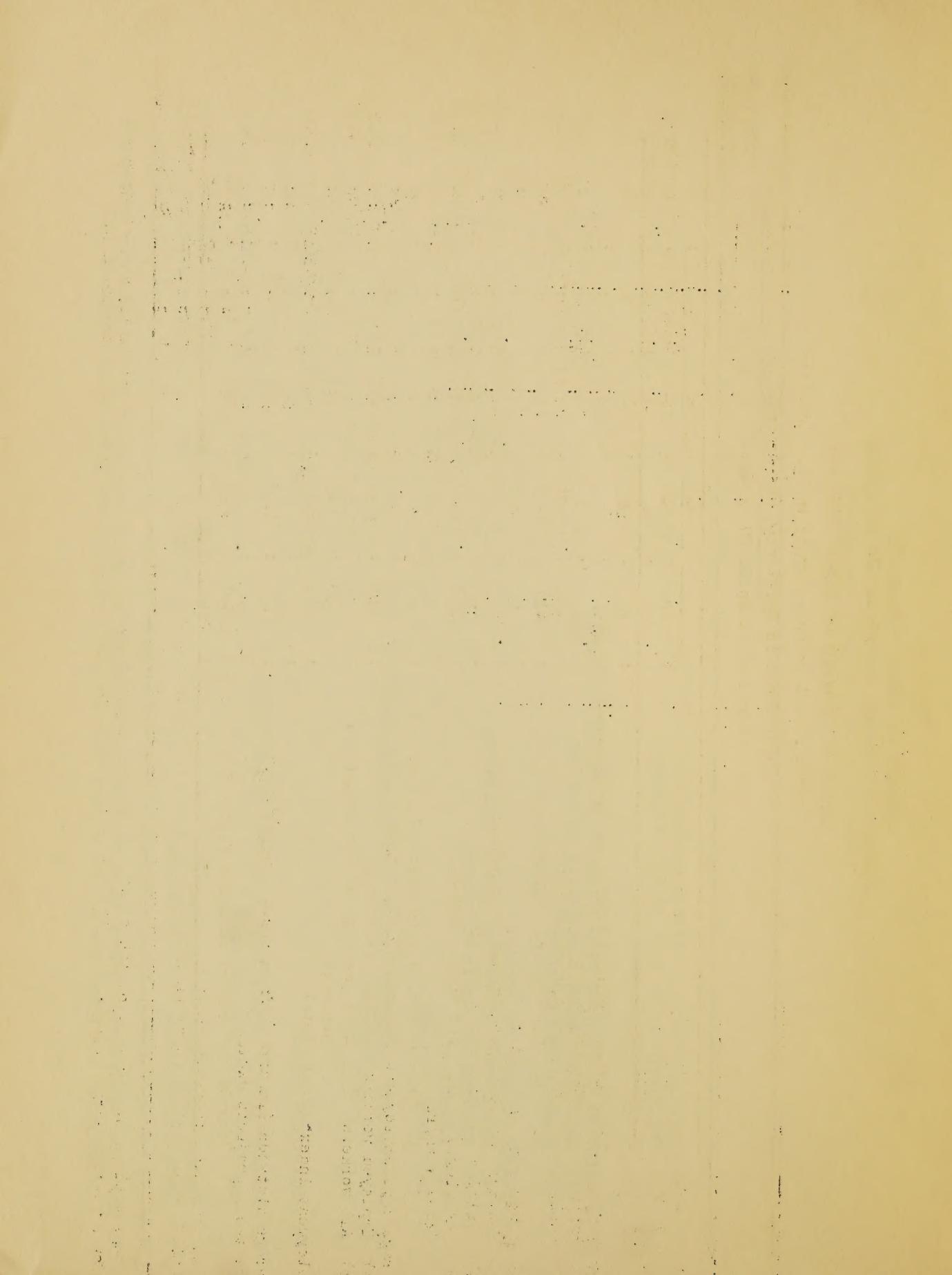


Table 2.

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY EARNINGS
 Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory
 Labor Camps in California and Arizona
 March 24 to April 20, 1940

	Week ending				Four week average
	March 30	April 6	April 13	April 20	
1. Average earnings from other than public assistance projects:					
(a) Per worker employed	5.35	4.56	6.61	6.46	5.76
(b) Per worker: all workers	0.91	1.09	1.44	1.92	1.33
2. Average earnings from public assistance projects:					
(a) Per worker engaged	9.03	11.43	12.65	7.63	9.97
3. Average family earnings: all families					
(a) Employment other than public assistance	1.69	2.20	2.62	3.59	2.52
(b) Employment on public assistance projects	0.72	0.15	0.67	0.26	0.45
(c) Total	2.41	2.35	3.29	3.85	2.97
(Camps included in above figures)	(15)	(16)	(16)	(16)	---
(Families included in above figures)	(240)	(232)	(227)	(232)	(931)

Table 3

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT BY REGIONS
 Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory Labor Camps
 in California and Arizona
 March 24 to April 20, 1940

	Week Ending						Four week average
	March 30	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27	April 29	
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMPS							
1. Per Cent of Workers Employed:							
(a) On other than public assistance projects	21	19	21	30	30	23	
(b) On public assistance projects	6	1	19	9	9	8	
2. Per Cent of Families with at least one worker employed*	28	30	29	42	42	32	
3. Average Earnings: all families							
(a) On other than public assistance projects	\$ 2.92	\$ 2.77	\$ 2.79	\$ 5.26	\$ 5.42		
(b) On public assistance projects	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.44		
(c) All employment ((a) + (b))	\$ 3.47	\$ 2.99	\$ 3.32	\$ 5.72	\$ 3.86		
4. Average miles from camp to job*	5.0	4.9	2.8	8.4	5.6		
5. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	
6. (Number of families included in above calculations)	(64)	(57)	(56)	(57)	(57)	(234)	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CAMPS							
1. Per Cent of Workers Employed:							
(a) On other than public assistance projects	6	10	16	25	25	14	
(b) On public assistance projects	1	1	1	0	0	less than 1	
2. Per Cent of Families with at least one worker employed*	9	18	21	32	32	20	
3. Average Earnings: all families							
(a) On other than public assistance projects	\$ 0.52	\$ 1.26	\$ 2.22	\$ 3.12	\$ 3.12		
(b) On public assistance projects	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
(c) All employment ((a) + (b))	\$ 0.63	\$ 1.36	\$ 2.22	\$ 3.12	\$ 3.12		
4. Average miles from camp to job*	11.3	5.9	11.7	11.9	11.9	10.5	
5. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)	
6. (Number of families included in above calculations)	(106)	(100)	(92)	(96)	(96)	(394)	

*Public assistance projects excluded.

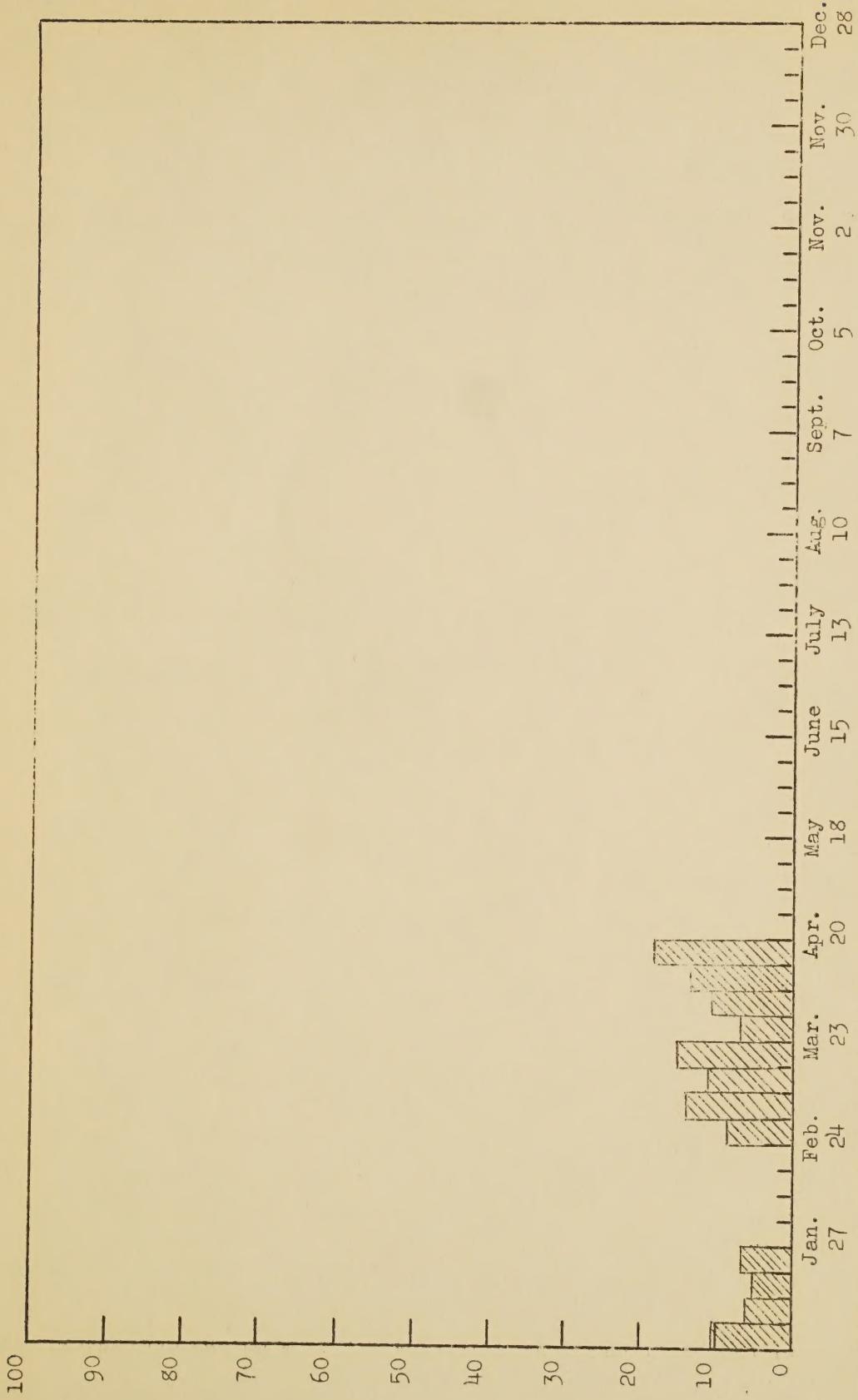
Table 3 (Contd.)

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT BY REGIONS
 Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory Labor Camps
 in California and Arizona
 March 24 to April 20, 1940

	Week ending						Four week average
	March 30	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27	May 4	
IMPERIAL AND COACHELLA VALLEY CAMPS							
1. Per Cent of Workers Employed:							
(a) On other than public assistance projects	25	54	42	55	42	43	
(b) On public assistance projects	12	8	11	14	11	9	
2. Per Cent of Families with at least one worker employed*	31	53	45	65	45	49	
3. Average Earnings: all families							
(a) On other than public assistance projects	\$ 1.90	\$ 3.14	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.58	\$ 3.08	
(b) On public assistance projects	\$ 2.69	\$ 2.27	\$ 2.91	\$ 0.72	\$ 2.91	\$ 1.64	
(c) All employment ((a) + (b))	\$ 4.59	\$ 3.41	\$ 6.49	\$ 4.49	\$ 6.49	\$ 4.72	
4. Average miles from camp to job*	12.4	16.9	9.1	8.6	11.8	12.2	
5. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	
6. (Number of families included in above calculations)	(45)	(45)	(42)	(43)	(42)	(43)	
ARIZONA CAMPS							
1. Per Cent of Workers Employed:							
(a) On other than public assistance projects	28	27	14	16	14	21	
(b) On public assistance projects	2	0	0	1	0	1	
2. Per Cent of Families with at least one worker employed*	56	57	24	33	33	41	
3. Average Earnings: all families							
(a) On other than public assistance projects	\$ 3.18	\$ 2.87	\$ 2.26	\$ 1.99	\$ 2.87	\$ 2.51	
(b) On public assistance projects	\$ 0.13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.05	
(c) All employment ((a) + (b))	\$ 3.31	\$ 2.87	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.09	\$ 2.87	\$ 2.56	
4. Average miles from camp to job*	9.5	8.5	11.8	7.7	11.8	9.3	
5. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	
6. (Number of families included in above calculations)	(25)	(30)	(37)	(36)	(37)	(128)	

*Public assistance projects excluded.

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT INDEX* FOR CALIFORNIA
Farm Workers Living in Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps.



* The employment index is determined as follows: Aggregate man-days employment on other than public assistance projects for the week is divided by the aggregate man-days available for employment (employed plus unemployed), allowing for a six-day week.

